

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

VENONA

From: MOSCOW

To: All Diplomatic Stations

28 July 1945

To the Ambassadors, Ministers and Consuls.

About putting cipher correspondence in order. Recently cipher telegrams are being written in an excessively long form, informational communications are being written in 5-6 pages when they could be stated in a maximum of 2 pages. Questions about the transfer of people, correspondence with relatives, consular correspondence for some reason are being transmitted by cipher and not by diplomatic mail. The regulations on priority marks are also being violated. Telegrams of "VNE OChEREDI" [a] priority are containing details of various conversations and information of no particular importance which might well be sent by diplomatic mail. In order to eliminate delay in deciphering the most urgent telegrams we are establishing the following system for cipher correspondence:

Telegrams with the mark "VNE OChEREDI" should contain no more than 2 pages. These should contain communications of the most important and most urgent nature for rapid [2 groups unrecovered] and questions which require decisions which must not be delayed.

"SROChNYE" [b] telegrams should not exceed 3 pages and should contain information of an urgent nature, not requiring a VNEOChEREDNYJ decision and answer.

In telegrams one should not set forth details of conversations, but essential aspects of questions; details should be described in letters and journals. Political surveys, press reviews, consular, organizational, personnel and economic questions are sent by ordinary diplomatic mail. Fulfilment of these instructions will improve the quality of the information and the work of the cipher clerks, will curtail the telegraphic expenses which must be paid in foreign currencies, and will lead to the timely working up of the cipher telegrams.

Confirm receipt of this telegram.

VYSHINSKIY

Notes: [a] VNE OChEREDI: i.e. extraordinary, special, out of order.  
[b] SROChNYJ: i.e. pressing, urgent.

25 August 1972

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